



## Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

12th Meeting of the Sixth Baltic Sea Pollution Load  
Compilation Project (PLC-6)

PLC-6 12-2016

Helsinki, Finland, 14-16 September 2016

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<b>Document title</b>	Provisional Annotated Agenda
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The Twelfth Meeting of the Project Group (PLC-6 12-2016) will be held at the premises of the HELCOM Secretariat in Helsinki, Finland, on 14-16 September 2016.

The Meeting will start at **10:00 on Wednesday, 14 September 2016** and is expected to terminate by **15:00 on Friday, 16 September 2016**.

The participants are kindly requested to register to the Meeting by answering the [Participation Survey](#) for the Meeting **not later than by 09 September 2016**.

The primary themes of the Meeting are:

- to discuss the results of reporting of annual and periodic data on nutrient inputs to the Baltic Sea and selected hazardous substances as well as the preparedness of the dataset for the assessment; how to finalize data reporting/validation and how to proceed with establishing an assessment dataset;
- to discuss the results of collection of background information and data for the PLC assessment and how to collect missing information;
- to finalize the outline for the PLC-6 assessment and identify the deadlines for the draft assessment products;
- to discuss issues related to PLC-7 project including necessary adjustments to the PLC guidelines regarding data collection;
- to follow up the development of the PLC database user tools and assessment tools by MAI-CART OPER project.

Documents for the Meeting, which are restricted until after the Meeting has ended, will be made available via the HELCOM Meeting Portal, in the [PLC-6 12-2016](#) Meeting Site.

## Provisional Annotated Agenda

### Agenda Item 1 Adoption of the Agenda

The Meeting is invited to adopt the Provisional Agenda (document 1-1).

### Agenda Item 2 Information from the Project Manager, Secretariat and Contracting Parties

The Project Manager and Secretariat will inform of relevant outcomes from recent HELCOM meetings (HOD 50, RedCore DG 13, etc.) and progress of the PLC-6 project, including the status of the roadmap (document to be submitted). The participants are invited to inform the Meeting about issues relevant for the PLC-6 project.

### Agenda Item 3 Results of annual and periodic reporting of the inputs of nutrients and selected heavy metals to the Baltic Sea and the results of using the reporting WEB application

#### Annual reporting

PLC-6 11-2016 considered the information by the Data Manager on the state of **annual reporting of 2013-2014** and concluded that the reporting of the data on 2013 is almost completed by the end of April 2016. With regard of the annual data 2014 the Meeting agreed on the following deadlines for the reporting:

- Germany to check the data by 27 May 2016.
- Latvia to check the data which have been uploaded but not inserted into the database.
- Lithuania to verify the data by the end of the meeting, if possible, but no later than 27 May 2016.
- Poland to clarify the procedure of insertion the data into the PLC database and insert the data by 27 May 2016.
- Russia to report the unmonitored area by the end of June.
- Sweden to check the last missed data by 27 May 2016.
- In June the Data Manger will quality assure data and clarify suspicious values with national experts by the end of June 2016. Experts should answer within one week as a maximum on request by the Data Manager.

PLC-6 11-2016 also recognized that this plan will enable the PLC RedCore DG, Project Manager and BNI to start filling data gaps, removing outliers and making a consistent assessment dataset after the summer holidays.

The Data Manager is requested to inform PLC-6 12-2-16 on the result of the annual data 2013 and 2014 reporting, as well as on the re-reporting of old data undertaken by the countries.

The Meeting is invited to scrutinize the reported annual data and to discuss about the state of the reported data as well as the elaboration of an assessment dataset and the assessment products. The Meeting is also invited to identify urgent actions to complete the dataset, if they are needed, and agree on deadlines.

#### Periodic reporting

PLC-6 11-2016 considered the information on the status of the periodic data 2014 (2012 for Germany and Poland) reporting and concluded that the periodical dataset should be available for further assessment by the PLC-6 project at the end of September 2016.

The Data Manager is requested to inform PLC-6 12-2-16 on the state of the periodic data 2014 (2012 for Germany and Poland) reporting.

The Meeting is invited to scrutinize the reported annual data. The Meeting is invited to discuss the state of the dataset and its readiness for making an assessment dataset and conclude on the preparedness of the dataset for further statistical processing and elaboration of the assessment products.

The Meeting is also invited to identify urgent actions to complete the dataset, if they are needed, and agree on deadlines.

#### Reporting of data on transboundary input

The PLC-6 11 meeting discussed the table from the PLC guideline with a list of transboundary rivers, as a starting point to get an overview of the state of the transboundary data reporting. The Meeting will be informed of the discussion in RedCore DG (5 September 2016) about the status of filling in the table and the results. The Meeting is invited to decide on how to follow up on the results.

The Meeting is invited to scrutinize and to discuss the state of the data on transboundary input of nutrients, identify questionable data, and agree on the solution for each case when the transboundary data are inconsistent or missing. The Meeting is also invited to conclude on preparedness of the dataset for inclusion into the assessment dataset for further statistical processing and elaboration of the assessment products. The Meeting is also invited to identify urgent actions to complete the dataset, if they are needed.

The Meeting is invited to discuss a need for a specific template for reporting transboundary inputs.

#### Reporting of data on input of selected hazardous substances

PRESSURE 4-2016 suggested that the future PLC reporting should pay more attention to the hazardous substances. The meeting also requested the RedCore Drafting Group to consider the results of the questionnaire and elaborate a proposal for the Contracting Parties to compile more detailed national information on the substances which were prioritized.

The Data Manager is requested to inform PLC-6 12-2-16 on the result of the reporting of data on the input of selected heavy metals as a part of the periodic reporting.

PLC-6 11-2016 considered the results of the questionnaire on hazardous substances and discussed the scope of the review to be included into the PLC-6 report. The meeting agreed that only a summary of the results of questionnaire is to be included into the PLC-6 report. PLC-6 11-2016 agreed that the first draft of the summary will be prepared by Sweden, assisted by Denmark, by early September for the PLC-6 12-2016 in order to be discussed further at PRESSURE 5-2016.

The Meeting is invited to scrutinize the reported data and to conclude on the availability of data for the assessment of input of hazardous substances and agree on how the data could be included in the PLC-6 report.

#### EMEP report on airborne input of pollutants into the Baltic Sea

Data on airborne deposition of nitrogen to the Baltic Sea used to be provided by EMEP on the basis of annual contract. A draft report on nitrogen deposition will be submitted to the Meeting by EMEP. The Meeting is invited to consider the draft report and provide a feedback on it. The final report will be approved by PRESSURE 5-2016.

Further, EMEP indicated that the dataset on airborne data for the PLC-6 report including 2014 could be available by early September. EMEP is invited to forward the dataset to the PLC-6 Project Manager and the HELCOM Secretariat and to introduce the dataset at the Meeting. The Meeting is invited to discuss the airborne dataset and follow up, as appropriate.

#### Using the reporting WEB application

The Contracting Parties are invited to provide feedback regarding the use of the WEB reporting application, identify needs in its further improvement, including quality assurance issues and suggestions for further development of the software in order to make the annual reporting of 2015 data more effective, less laborious and timely performed.

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## Agenda Item 4                      Elaboration of the details of the contents of the PLC-6 report

PLC-6 11-2016 discussed the contents of the PLC-6 assessment and agreed on the updates to the details of the contents, taking into account the guidance provided by PRESSURE 4 (document to be submitted). With reference to the project proposal, the meeting invited the participants to consider their involvement in writing the final report and to inform PLC-6 12-2016 on the contribution to the final report.

The Meeting is invited to agree on the next steps to finalize the chapter and the deadlines.

### Assessment of effectiveness of measures and potential reduction in nutrient inputs

PRESSURE 4-2016 discussed the implementation of the tasks on assessment of effectiveness of measures and potential reduction in nutrient inputs of the PLC-6 project. The meeting pointed out difficulties with the assessment of effectiveness of the measures addressing diffuse sources. The meeting also emphasized that the assessment of effectiveness of measures is an important but a rather challenging task, noting that the questionnaire which had been circulated by the Project Team was the first attempt to collect information.

PLC-6 11-2016 discussed the revised questionnaire on measures taken by the Contracting Parties and agreed that countries would respond to the questionnaire on effectiveness of measures by 22 August 2016 addressing the reports to the Project Manager ([lms@dce.au.dk](mailto:lms@dce.au.dk)).

The Meeting is invited to discuss the results of questionnaire (document to be submitted) and agree on further steps with deadlines to work out the chapter of the PLC-6 report dedicated to the assessment of the effectiveness of measures.

### Supplementary information for PLC-6 report

PLC-6 11-2016 discussed the state of collecting background and supporting data for the PLC-6 assessment and agreed on the updated deadlines for countries to report missing information. Sweden is invited to inform on the state of data collection.

PRESSURE 4-2016 decided to include a pilot exercise on assessment of inputs of nitrogen and phosphorus from seven major rivers into the PLC-6 periodical assessment, noting that the input by these rivers contribute about 50% of the total input of nutrients and might be used for an assessment of the effectiveness of measures in the long-term perspective.

PLC-6 11-2016 invited the authors of Chapter 3 of the Contents of the report to prepare a detailed structure of the chapter and submit it well in advance to the PLC-6 12-2016. The meeting also invited national experts to investigate the availability of the data listed in the description of Chapter 3 (outcome of PLC-6 11-2016, Annex 3) on major rivers, and in particular on the rivers belonging to the “big 7”.

PLC-6 11-2016 discussed the uncertainty of the reported parameters - flows and loads (presented by Sweden) and recognized the very poor state of the reporting of data uncertainty. PLC-6 11-2016 noted that countries do not use unified methodology to estimate the data uncertainty and concluded that the methodologies related to identification of the uncertainty should be significantly developed. The discussion on the matters related to data uncertainty is to be continued at the PLC-6 12-2016 Meeting, including estimation of the uncertainty of inputs to the Baltic Sea and on source apportionment etc.

The Meeting is invited to discuss the state of the background information and agree on the next steps to compile a reliable dataset. The reporting deadlines for the particular data are to be identified. The Meeting is also invited to agree on the structure of the Chapter 3 and identify the availability of data to assess changes in nutrient inputs by major rivers, particularly in respect of the evaluation of the effectiveness of measures to reduce input. Finally, the Meeting is invited to conclude on the methodology for flows and loads uncertainty which is to be used for the PLC-6 assessment.

## Description of applied national methods

PLC-6 11-2016 discussed the scope of the overview and availability of information on national models used in different countries and agreed that national experts will provide a summary on each methodology (as methodologies for estimating input from unmonitored areas, sources apportionment, estimation retention, background losses, etc.) supplemented by links to the scientific publication by 1 September 2016.

The Meeting is invited to discuss the availability of information on national models used in different countries and conclude on the content of the overview which is to be included into the PLC-6 report.

## Agenda Item 5                      PLC-7 project proposal

HOD 50-2016 agreed on the Concept Note for the Seventh Baltic Sea Pollution Load Compilation (PLC-7) project, including its objectives, tasks, and final products (HOD 50-2016 document 4-14) and requested the Pressure WG to develop the PLC-7 project proposal for consideration by HOD 51-2016.

The Meeting is invited to consider a draft project proposal prepared by the RedCore DG and provide comments on the document.

## Agenda Item 6                      Revision of PLC guidelines

The preparatory work for the PLC-7 project includes revision/updates of the PLC guidelines regarding monitoring and collection of PLC-7 data in 2017. The Meeting is invited to discuss and revise the relevant paragraphs in the PLC guidelines, based on a proposal by the PLC-6 Project Manager (document to be submitted).

## Agenda Item 7                      Future work

Based on the status of annual and periodical data reporting, reporting of background information and heavy metals concentrations, as well as airborne inputs, the Meeting is invited to consider the revised roadmap and to agree on adjustments to the roadmap of implementation of the PLC-6 project (document to be submitted).

The Meeting is invited to discuss further work, division of workload, deadlines as well as the arrangement and tasks of the Twelfth Project Group meeting.

The Meeting is invited to review the list of project contacts (document to be submitted) and to update it as necessary.

## Agenda Item 8                      Any other business

The Meeting is invited to discuss any other business.

## Agenda Item 9                      Closing of the Meeting

The Secretariat will prepare a draft outcome of the Meeting for consideration and approval by the Meeting.